

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 AID-20 IGA-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /188 W
----- 115751

R 301600Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5356

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 9305

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CG, BE, SO, US

SUBJ: MOBUTU'S OCTOBER 25 PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: KINSHASA 9264 (NOTAL)

FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF WIDE RANGING INTERVIEW WHICH
PRESIDENT MOBUTU GAVE TO GROUP OF BELGIAN JOURNALISTS OCTOBER 25:

1. ANGOLA AND PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM: MOBUTU REITERATED PLEDGE
TO HELP ANGOLAN BROTHERS ACHIEVE THEIR FREEDOM AND HE STROFGLY
BLAMED NATO COUNTRIES FOR ECONOMIC SUPPORT OF PORTUGAL WHICH
PERMITTED IT TO MASSACRE BLACK PEOPLE. HE SAID ALL COUNTRIES
HAVING INVESTMENT IN ANGOLA ARE MEMBER OF NATIO. HE REFERRED TO
"ANNUAL" USG "PAYMENT" OF THREE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS FOR AZORES
BASE AND CALLED IT DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO PORTUGESE WAR BUDGET.
PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD RAISED THIS MATTER WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
DURING HIS OCT 10 VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED TO
NOTE THAT ONE MEMBER HAD OFFICIALLY RAISED MATTER WITH US ADMIN-
STRATION. HE ADDED THAT ZAIRE HAS SACRED DUTY TO HELP BY ALL
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MEANS LIBERATION OF ANGOLAN BROTHERS. ANGOLANS HAVE THREE BASES,

WITH INSTRUCTORS, IN ZAIRE.

2. FOREIGN POLICY: MOBUTU POINTED TO EXAMPLE OF US-USSR BILATERALLY WORKING OUT AGREEMENT ON ME CEASE-FIRE OUTSIDE SECURITY COUNCIL. UNLESS ONE ABIDES BY THE UN CHARTER, THERE IS RISK OF "INSTITUTIONALIZING IMPERIALISM." (I.E., US-USSR HEGEMONY). HE ALSO REITERATED EARLIER PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT ZAIRE CONTINUES TO WELCOME PRESENCE OF ISRAELI BUSINESSMEN.

3. BELGIAN AID: (SEE REFTTEL)

4. INVESTMENT: MOBUTU CITED BELGIAN FAILURE MAKE FRESH INVESTMENT IN ZAIRE AND LAUDED RESPONSIVENESS OF US BUSINESS. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN 1970 WHEN HE VISITED US ONLY 8 OR 9 AMERICAN FIRMS WERE IN ZAIRE. TODAY, FOLLOWING PRESIDENT NIXON'S CALL TO US BUSINESS TO INVEST IN THIS COUNTRY, THERE ARE 100 AMERICAN FIRMS REPRESENTING A LARGE INVESTMENT. BECAUSE OF AMERICANS' RESPONSE, HE HAD NOT HESITATED TO GUARANTEE THEIR INVESTMENT BUT HE COULD NOT FIND BASIS FOR DOING SAME FOR BELGIAN BUSINESSES WHICH ARE MERELY HOLDOVER FROM COLONIAL DAYS. "FRESH INVESTMENT" FROM BELGIUM MIGHT BE SOMETHING ELSE.

5. ZAIRE-DOLLAR LINKAGE: ASKED WHY ZAIRE REMAINS LINKED TO THE DOLLAR, MOBUTU STATED THAT IT IS A SIMPLE QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE. AT TIME WHEN ZAIRE'S CURRENCY WAS BEING DEVALUED UNDER IMF AUSPICES, LINKAGE HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY STUDIED AND NOT GOOD REASON HAS BEEN FOUND TO CHANGE IT. HE ADDED THAT ZAIRE MAINTAINS PARITY WITH DOLLAR WITHOUT DEPENDING ON IT. IN FINAL ANALYSIS, VALUE OF A COUNTRY'S CURRENCY DEPENDS ON ITS POLICIES. ITS FRIENDS REALIZE ZAIRE IS BUILDING SOLID ECONOMY AND HAS DISCIPLINED WORK FORCE.

6. FULL TEXT BY AIRGRAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, ANTINATO, ANTICOLONIALISM, PARITY CONVERSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINSHA09305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973105/aaaaadei.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KINSHASA 9264 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBUTU'S OCTOBER 25 PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, CG, BE, PO, US, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005